

Dear Parent,

Your child's school is a Title I school; it receives extra monies because of the number of children who are eligible for free and reduced priced lunches. This money comes from the federal government. In July, the federal government allowed Indiana to change the supports and requirements under No Child Left Behind for Title I schools. These changes are called *Differentiated Accountability*. This letter will explain these changes and how they should help your child.

The changes are for schools with students who are not doing as well as others on state testing and are in improvement status. There are two groups of schools. The first group is called *focused schools*. Focused schools did not meet adequate yearly progress (AYP) because a few groups in the school did not do well on the state test. The second group of schools is called *comprehensive schools*. These schools have many groups that did not do well on the state test, or they were very far from the state AYP achievement target.

The supports and the requirements from the Indiana Department of Education are different for *focus schools* and for *comprehensive schools*. Schools showing the most need are in the *comprehensive-intensive schools*. They are different, also, if the school is in the first, second, third year or more of improvement. Attached are three additional papers. The first will list the schools in your district that are in the *focused* or *comprehensive* group. The other two will outline the requirements and supports for *focused* and *comprehensive* schools.

You, as parents, are connected closely to the supports for students: (1) school choice and (2) supplemental education services (SES), which is free tutoring. You will be hearing more about these in the future, if your school needs to provide these supports for your child.

You are an important part of the team to increase your child's learning. Together, the school, the parents, the community, and the Indiana State Department of Education can help all children in their learning. Reading to your children and finding a quiet place for them to do their homework are two ways you can help today.

If you have any questions, please contact _____ at _____.

Sincerely,

Supports and Requirements for Title I Schools in Improvement 2008-09

Instructions:

1. Find your child's school on the paper, "Schools in Your District."
2. Find the school's "Year in Improvement" on the paper.
3. If it is a "Focused School," look at Table A.
If it is a "Comprehensive School, look at Table B.
4. In Table A or B read down the column with that same year.
5. A ✓ shows the actions your school will be taking.

Table A: Focused Schools

Years in Improvement	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Years 8 and beyond
1. School Choice: Parent may choose to send their child to a different school, which will be selected by the district.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. S.E.S.: Parents may choose for their child to receive free tutoring (if the child is on free and reduced lunch).		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Teachers receive training about curriculum and instruction for special groups of students.			✓	✓	✓	✓
4. School takes a special action: (a) replaces staff, (b) hires literacy or math specialist, (c) hires an English language learner specialist, or (d) lengthens school day or year.				✓	✓	✓
5a. A team of experts advises and supports the school. 5b. Teachers use learning tools to understand what students know and how to help them. (Wireless Generation, Acuity)						5a. ✓ 5b. ✓

Table B: Comprehensive Schools and Comprehensive-Intensive Schools

Years in Improvement	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Years 8 and beyond
1. School Choice: Parent may choose to send their child to a different school, which will be selected by the district.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. S.E.S.: Parents may choose for their child to receive free tutoring (if the child is on free and reduced lunch).		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. School takes one special action: (a) replaces staff, (b) replaces principal or hires a mentor, (c) hires an English language learner specialist, or (d) lengthens the school day or year			✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Teachers use learning tools to understand what students know and how to help them. Wireless Generation, Acuity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4a. Teachers and principals (K-3 rd grade) attend Indiana Reading Academy. 4b. Middle school math teachers and principals attend Indiana Algebra Initiative.			4a. ✓ 4b. ✓	4a. ✓ 4b. ✓	4a. ✓ 4b. ✓	4a. ✓ 4b. ✓
5. Reading or math specialists support teachers to improve their teaching.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6a. Write a plan to restructure the school. 6b. Restructure the school.				6a. ✓	6b. ✓	
7. Superintendent presents plan to Indiana Department of Education.						✓
Comprehensive Intensive Schools (Top ten schools showing the most need) All of the above, plus:						
8. A team of experts advises and supports the school.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9. Principal and team of teachers attend Indiana Institute for School Leadership Teams.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓